

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) please come forward and take the oath of office at this time.

Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

BLUEPRINT FOR PROGRAM TO RALLY THE ARMIES OF COMPASSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-36)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Government Reform and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed please find the blueprint for my program to "Rally the Armies of Compassion." I look forward to working with the Congress to pass reforms to support the heroic works of faith-based and community groups across America.

GEORGE BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 30, 2001.

□ 1845

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2001

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized to entertain a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution on Wednesday, January 31, 2001:

H. Con. Res. 14.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BIGGETT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. STEARNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING RESTRICTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as we acknowledge, unfortunately, that poor women and children all over the world will be unable to participate in the \$425 million that this Congress passed in the Foreign Operations bill for family planning.

Unfortunately, about 10 days ago, President Bush signed an executive order that would not allow international family planning clinics to use the 400-plus million for family planning educational services as this Congress passed.

My colleagues might remember that, in that same Foreign Operations bill, we said, as a compromise, that no funds would be expended until February, 6 months after the beginning of the fiscal year.

It is unfortunate now, after much trepidation, a lot of meetings, a lot of bipartisan cooperation, that we now find some of the poorest women in countries around the world who receive funds from several countries unable to use the appropriations that this Congress provided for family planning.

People in need of health services unrelated to family planning are affected by this executive order. The executive order says that no monies from our Treasury, and it has been appropriated and approved, \$425 million, can be used for health services in those countries that counsel on family planning.

We think that is wrong. We think that because we have put so much time and effort into this, and because America is the number one country in the world, that we have a responsibility to help those poorer countries who are in need of those health dollars, health dollars for diabetes, health dollars for heart disease, health dollars for a myriad of illnesses that those clinics help.

Our \$400 million that was appropriated in a bipartisan way with the knowledge that those funds not be expended until February; now those funds cannot be used in those poor countries. We think it is a shame. It is called international gag rule because those countries across the world who use our dollars also get other dollars from other places to help them in their family planning efforts. We think it is unfortunate. We think President Bush has made a mistake and we hope that he will revisit this.

Vulnerable populations around the world look to America for leadership. They look to us to help them with their family planning, to help them

with their childhood illnesses, to help them with their health concerns.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, we had much debate on this issue. We think it is unfortunate, now that we stand here, not to be able to use funds that have been appropriated for the poorest of countries in the world, from the leaders of the free world, the citizens here in the United States.

Madam Speaker, if in fact this policy stands, can my colleagues imagine the hardships that those poor families will feel around the world, not able to use their health dollars for those illnesses, including family planning.

I hope, Madam Speaker, that we will take another look at this. I hope that President Bush will rescind that executive order. Family planning is one of the most sacred things that we have as women. God created women and created men with certain characteristics. Only women can bear children, and we want to bear them when we need them, when we want them, and when we can take care of them. That is what that appropriation did that we have in our Foreign Operations bill.

So I call on President Bush to rethink his position. There are millions of women across the world who look to America for assistance. \$400 million is a small piece of the pie, but it certainly can save many lives, help many families and ensure protection for children who are poor and who need our assistance.

So, Madam Speaker, again, I ask President Bush, please rescind the executive order, lift the gag rule on international planning. We call on him today and we hope he will heed our call.

Madam Speaker, the announcement of President Bush of his intent to reinstate the so-called "Mexico City" policy represents an abandonment of women and families in need around the globe. In December, Congress voted to lift from this year's foreign spending bill the unfair restrictions imposed on international family planning providers. Keeping out of future appropriations what is often referred to as the "global gag rule" is both a moral and economic imperative.

The controversial Mexico City language specifies two major conditions that foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) must meet in order to receive family planning funds from the United States. First, the NGO must not perform abortions, except in cases of forcible rape or incest, or where the mother's life is endangered if the pregnancy is carried to term. This condition refers specifically to NGO's using private funds to provide abortion services since no U.S. funds have been used to perform abortions abroad since 1973. Secondly, the NGO must not violate their country's abortion laws, or engage in any effort to change the laws of their country governing abortion. This means that participation in a rally, the lobbying of government representatives, or any advocacy efforts by an organization to either allow or even maintain legal abortions in their own countries would be grounds for the United States to rescind funding. Such a restriction is a clear violation of